THE 1990 DEUEL CONFERENCE ON LIPIDS

Advisory Board

John P. Kane, *Chairman*
Long Hospital 1337C
Cardiovascular Research Institute
University of California
San Francisco, California 94143
(Phone: 415 476-1517)
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Frank T. Lindgren, *Treasurer*
Donner Laboratory
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720
(Phone: 415 486-4604)

Richard J. Havel, *Local Arrangements*
Cardiovascular Research Institute, 1315M
University of California
San Francisco, California 94143-0130
(Phone: 415 476-2226)

Edwin L. Bierman, *Funding*
Department of Medicine
Division of Metabolism RG-26
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195
(Phone: 206 543-3158)

Program Committee

John D. Brunzell, *Chairman*
Department of Medicine
Division of Metabolism RG-26
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195
(Phone: 206 543-3158)
Peter A. Edwards, 1991
Ronald M. Krauss, 1992

Background Information on the Deuel Conference on Lipids

The Deuel Conference on Lipids was organized by a small group of eminent West Coast scientists interested in lipid research, to provide a conference on lipids for western states similar to the Gordon Conferences held in the east. Shortly after it was organized, one of the founders, Harry Deuel, died and the conference was named in his memory. The conference has been held annually since about 1955 in various West Coast locations.

Generally the conference is devoted to one or two subjects and both basic and clinical materials are presented. The two and one-half day conference consists of five sessions beginning Wednesday or Thursday morning and running until Friday or Saturday, and is held in late February or early March. Each session is introduced by a speaker chosen for his or her high stature in the field. These speakers review their own and related work. Each review is followed by a few small presentations and general discussion of a disease process. Informality and wide interchange of information and views are encouraged by limiting the size of the groups, by the round table format, and by not recording or publishing the discussions.

Until 1968, the conferences were organized by Dr. L.W. Kinsell, and since that time they have continued under broadly based rotating leadership. The original policies of the conference have been preserved to keep within the traditional budget, to maintain the informal atmosphere, and to provide the depth and breadth of expertise necessary for a high quality conference.

The attendance has been kept at less than 100 persons to insure informality. A few established investigators in the field of lipids, mostly from west of the Continental Divide, are regularly invited to attend. Lipid scientists in the west are informed of the coming program and are invited to apply for a place around the table. The program Chairperson selects participants on the basis of relationship of the research interests of applicants to the program. These participants provide their own travel and living expenses, and all attendees are expected to be present for the entire conference.

The funds to defray the expense of speakers and conference costs are sought from industrial firms which have a general interest in the area of lipids. Donors are extended the privilege of sending a participant to the conference. However, because of the limited size and increasing interest in the conference, it has become necessary recently to adopt the policy of restricting the participants of the supporting firms to one, with a minimum donation of $2,000 per attendee.

E. L. Bierman, Chairperson
Funding Committee
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